THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Friday, 8th February 1924.

The House met at 11 o'clock, the hon. the President (Diwan Bahadur L. D. SWAMIKANNU PILLAI Avargal, C.I.E., I.S.O.) in the Chair.

I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No.* 15—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions and answers shall be arranged in order of subjects.

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in the order in which the names are printed, specify the serial numbers of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS TO QUESTION No. 286—*cont.*

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Sir, the answer given is that the Board of Revenue is the authority in such matters according to the Act of 1894. May I ask whether the Board of Revenue consulted the Government before they regrouped these villages ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF KOLLENGODE :—" Government gave them orders to regroup the villages."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Sir, if Government gave orders to the Board of Revenue to regroup the villages, under whose responsibility was it done ? Is it under the responsibility of the Government or the Board of Revenue ? And considering the feeling with reference to this matter in this House, will the Government ask the Board of Revenue to stop any further regrouping of villages ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF KOLLENGODE :—" Government do not propose to do so."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Sir, in view of the fact that the Board of Revenue is acting under orders from the Government, will the Government be pleased to call for the details of information asked for in clause (*c*) ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF KOLLENGODE :—" Sir, I do not admit that the reduction of village officers and regrouping of villages has left a large number of villages without the assistance of village headmen, karnams, talaiyaris, etc. If there are any such cases I should be glad to . ."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Sir, are the Government in possession of information fully, or are they in possession of some information and not of the rest ? The hon. the Revenue Member's statement shows that the Government are in possession of some."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—" Will the hon. the Raja of Kollengode be pleased to say whether in the regrouping of proprietary villages and reducing the village staff the consent of the proprietors was obtained or at least whether they ascertained their convenience in the matter ? "

[8th February 1924

The hon. the RAJA OF KOLLENGODE :—" Sir, in regard to settled estates it is usual to consult the proprietors as a matter of courtesy. I don't think they are bound to be consulted whenever a reduction or a change takes place."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Sir, yesterday we asked the Revenue Member whether there are not large areas of villages in North Arcot district where regrouping of villages has deprived them of village officers, headmen, talaiyaris . . ."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" On a point of order, Sir, this is question time and the hon. Member is making a speech."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" May I ask the hon. the Revenue Member to call for the details of information ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF KOLLENGODE :—" I would be glad to do so."

Abolition of the Ramnad district.

287 Q.—Mr. P. K. S. A. ARUMUGA NADAR : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the revenue taluks of Sattur and Srivilliputtur of the present Ramnad district are to be amalgamated with the Tinnevelly district and the other zamindari taluks of the Ramnad district to be amalgamated with the Madura district, thus abolishing Ramnad district; and

(*b*) if the answer be in the affirmative, when it will take effect ?

A.—No such proposal is at present under the consideration of Government.

Mr. P. K. S. A. ARUMUGA NADAR :—" Sir, will the hon. the Revenue Member be pleased to state whether there is any prospect of such arrangements as mentioned in clause (*a*) ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF KOLLENGODE :—" I cannot say what is going to happen in future, Sir."

Regrouping of villages.

288 Q.—Mr. K. KOTI REDDI : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(1) the number of villages resulting from the grouping and amalgamation of villages that has been recently carried out ; and

(2) the number of original villages out of which the above ' grouped ' villages were created ?

A.—The Board of Revenue being the authority under the Village Service Acts, the Government have not the details asked for in their possession.

Court of Wards and Zamindars.

Estates under the Court of Wards.

289 Q.—Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(1) how many estates are now under the Court of Wards ;

(2) how many of them are encumbered and to what extent at present ;